

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 11, and 46-48, and ADD new claim 49 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A wheel bearing which comprises an inner member, an outer member, a circular row of rolling elements interposed between the inner and outer members, and a sealing device for sealing an annular end space delimited between the inner and outer members, said sealing device comprising:

first and second annular sealing plates secured respectively to one of the ~~first_inner~~ and ~~second_outer~~ members and the other thereof, and disposed in face-to-face relation to each other;

each of the first and second annular sealing plates including a cylindrical wall and a radial wall assembled together to represent a generally L-shaped section;

the first annular sealing plate being mounted on one of the inner and outer members which is rotatable relative to the other of the inner and outer members, with the radial wall positioned on one side adjacent an exterior of the bearing;

a first elastic member mixed with a powder of magnetic particles and bonded by vulcanization to the radial wall of the first annular sealing plate, the first elastic member being formed with a magnetized portion in which opposite magnetic poles are formed alternately in a direction circumferentially thereof;

the second sealing plate including an elastic sealing member, the elastic sealing member being formed integrally with a side sealing lip slidably engageable with the radial wall of the first annular sealing plate and a radial sealing lip slidably engageable with the cylindrical wall of the first annular sealing plate;

the cylindrical wall of the second annular sealing plate being spaced a slight radial gap from a free periphery of the radial wall of the first annular sealing plate; and

a second elastic material member, made of a material different from that of the first elastic member bonded to the radial wall and interposed at an engagement of the first annular sealing plate with such one of the first-inner and second-outer members which is rotatable.

2. (Original) The wheel bearing as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the second elastic member interposed at the engagement of the first annular sealing plate comprises a coated layer of rubber material applied to the first annular sealing plate.

3. (Original) The wheel bearing as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the second elastic member interposed at the engagement of the first annular sealing plate comprises a layer of paint material applied to the first annular sealing plate and having a rust preventive property.

4. (Original) The wheel bearing as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the paint material is a polyethylene rubber paint.

5. (Original) The wheel bearing as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the second elastic member interposed at the engagement of the first annular sealing plate comprises a layer of adhesive material applied to the first annular sealing plate and having a rust preventive property.

6. (Original) The wheel bearing as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the adhesive material is a resinous room temperature setting adhesive having an anaerobic property.

7. (Previously Presented) The wheel bearing as claimed in claim 3, wherein a surface of the first annular sealing plate which forms the engagement has a surface roughness not greater than Rmax 3.0.

8. (Original) The wheel bearing as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the inner member has an outer peripheral surface formed with an annular groove and wherein the second elastic member of the different material is a ring-shaped rubber member, the first annular sealing plate being mounted on the inner member through the ring-shaped rubber member.

9. (Original) The wheel bearing as claimed in Claim 1, wherein an annular joint between the cylindrical wall and the radial wall of the first sealing plate is provided with a folded portion that extends radially inwardly from the radial wall and joined to the cylindrical wall after having been turned backwards; wherein an annular depression is formed on an outer peripheral end surface of the inner member by radially inwardly depressing to provide a reduced diameter portion; wherein the first annular sealing plate is mounted on the inner member with the folded portion positioned within the annular depression; and wherein the second elastic member of the different material is a ring-shaped rubber member that is interposed between an annular side face of the annular depression and the folded portion.

10. (Original) The wheel bearing as claimed in Claim 1, wherein an annular depression is formed on an outer peripheral end surface of the inner member by radially inwardly depressing to provide a reduced diameter portion; wherein the first annular sealing plate is mounted on the annular depression with the cylindrical wall thereof engaged with an outer peripheral surface of the annular depression; and wherein the second elastic member of the different material is a ring-shaped rubber member that is interposed between an axial free end of the cylindrical wall of the first annular sealing plate and an annular side face of the annular depression.

11. (Currently Amended) The wheel bearing as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the cylindrical wall of the first annular sealing plate is formed with a stop member which is in turn engaged in an annular groove defined on ~~the~~an outer peripheral surface of the inner member.

12. (Original) The wheel bearing as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the stop member comprises a bent end formed at an axial free end of the cylindrical wall of the first annular sealing plate.

13. (Original) The wheel bearing as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the stop member comprises a plurality of protuberances formed on the cylindrical wall of the first annular sealing plate at a position generally intermediate of an axial length of the cylindrical wall and spaced a distance from each other in a direction circumferentially of the cylindrical wall of the first annular sealing plate.

14. (Original) The wheel bearing as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the stop member comprises an annular projection formed in the cylindrical wall of the first annular sealing plate at a location generally intermediate of an axial length of the cylindrical wall and extending circumferentially of the cylindrical wall.

15-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Original) A sealing device included in a wheel bearing as defined in Claim 1, wherein one of the first and second annular sealing plates which is on a fixed side is made of a metal and wherein said fixed side annular sealing plate or the elastic sealing member mounted thereon is formed with a projection protruding inwardly of the wheel bearing, said projection being formed so as to be continuous or discontinuous.

35-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Original) A sealing device included in a wheel bearing as defined in Claim 1, wherein one of the first and second annular sealing plates which is on a fixed side is made of a metallic non-magnetic material.

39-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) A sealing device as claimed in Claim 34, wherein in place of the first elastic member including the magnetized portion, the magnetized portion is formed by directly magnetizing the radial wall of the one of the first and second annular sealing plates which is on a rotatable side.

43-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) The wheel bearing as claim claimed in claim 4, wherein a surface of the first annular sealing plate which forms the engagement has a surface roughness not greater than Rmax 3.0.

47. (Currently Amended) The wheel bearing as claim claimed in claim 5, wherein a surface of the first annular sealing plate which forms the engagement has a surface roughness not greater than Rmax 3.0.

48. (Currently Amended) The wheel bearing as claim claimed in claim 6, wherein a surface of the first annular sealing plate which forms the engagement has a surface roughness not greater than Rmax 3.0.

49. (New) A sealing device sealing an annular end space delimited between first and second members of a wheel bearing having a circular row of rolling elements interposed between the first and second members, the sealing device comprising:

a first annular sealing plate secured to one of the first and second members that rotates relative to the remaining one of the first and second members;

a second annular sealing plate secured to the remaining one of the first and second members,

the first and second annular sealing plates being disposed to face to each other, each of the first and second annular sealing plates having a cylindrical wall and a radial wall to represent a generally L-shaped section,

the radial wall of the first annular sealing plate being positioned adjacent to an exterior of the bearing,

the cylindrical wall of the second annular sealing plate being spaced a slight radial gap from a free periphery of the radial wall of the first annular sealing plate, and

the second sealing plate having an elastic sealing member, the elastic sealing member being formed integrally and having

a side sealing lip slidably engageable with the radial wall of the first annular sealing plate, and

a radial sealing lip slidably engageable with the cylindrical wall of the first annular sealing plate;

a first elastic member mixed with a powder of magnetic particles and bonded by vulcanization to the radial wall of the first annular sealing plate, the first elastic member being formed with a magnetized portion in which opposite magnetic poles are alternately positioned around a circumference of the first elastic member; and

a second elastic member, made of a material different from the first elastic member, bonded to the radial wall of the first annular sealing plate, and interposed between the first annular sealing plate and the one of the first and second members that rotates.